

Guest Foreword from Michael Thomas CMG QC

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I am delighted to be invited to attend upon this launch of the *International Review of Law*, conceived and now delivered into the world by the College of Law of the University of Qatar under Dr. Jon Truby's leadership. This new and most welcome contribution to global academic writing and contemporary legal criticism, should be of the greatest interest outside Qatar, if only for its provenance.

The State of Qatar has become widely known and respected for its vision, its progressive outlook, and its determination to look beyond Arab culture and traditions for new ways of working with the rest of the world for the good of the region as a whole. It has made a bold commitment to engage with the accepted legal principles and processes that have served the needs of global mercantile and commercial activity so well over the last two centuries.

This is demonstrated by the generous support given by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, to the Qatar Law Forum 2009, to be repeated in May this year, in which jurists and lawyers of great eminence are brought together in Doha to expound, explain and exchange ideas upon the importance of the rule of law, the universal key to principled and effective government, and the protection of individual freedom and dignity.

One may also cite the recently established Civil and Commercial Court, served by appointed judges of international repute from many jurisdictions, that has opened its doors in Doha for dispute resolution and adjudication.

I am privileged to chair the Regulatory Tribunal, an independent statutory body composed of lawyers from overseas with specialist experience in market regulation, to which incoming investors can appeal any disputes they make with Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) Institutions such as the QFC Regulatory Authority and QFC Authority.

In the same way, the founding of Qatar University College of Law in 2006 has shown Qatar's determination to train future generations of Qataris to build on the best of legal precedents and thought in a unique legal market in which ideas drawn from Islamic law, civil law and common law can intermingle and blend.

It is not surprising therefore to see that this new publication will be dedicated to the subject of international law, both public and private. Its laudable aim is to promote legal discourse around the world, and to promote a wider international understanding of contemporary legal issues for the common benefit. As an open access, bilingual journal, addressing topics concerning any jurisdiction, I hope it will reach a wide audience, and fulfil its aim of promoting understanding between different cultures.

I am sure that the journal will not only benefit Qatar's legal community by advancing academic and practice-based legal discussion. I am also confident that it will stimulate thought in the global legal community at large. May I wish it every success and a long life.

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